Amendment to the Specification

Page 3, please replace the first paragraph as follows:

The ~~invented~~ denim-like clothing is sewn by a conventional technique, and at least part of the resulting sewn fabric is whitened and exhibits the feeling or semblance of a natural fiber denim.

Page 3, please replace the second paragraph as follows:

The ~~invented~~ denim-like clothing is preferably produced, for example, by a method in which a woven or knitted fabric including ultrafine fibers or fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers on its surface is treated with an acidic solution with pH of from 1.5 to 4 at temperatures from 100°C to 140°C, and the treated woven or knitted fabric is subjected to a combination of a flexing or rubbing step and a colored step.

Page 4, please replace the fifth paragraph as follows:

Best Mode ~~for Comprising Out the Invention~~

The ~~invented~~ denim-like clothing uses a woven or knitted fabric comprising ultrafine fibers or fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers on its surface. Preferred ultrafine fibers or fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers are separable conjugated fibers that can be divided by separation or island-in-sea type conjugated fibers containing plural segments (e.g., from 2 to 50 segments) of an island component.

Page 4 bridging Page 5, please amend the sixth paragraph as follows:

The ~~invented~~ denim-like clothing mainly comprises a woven or knitted fabric comprising the ultrafine fibers or fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers on its surface and preferably has a

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whitening index of Class 4 or lower, more preferably from Class 4 to Class 1, and typically preferably from Class 4 to Class 1, and typically preferably from Class 4 to Class 1-2, as expressed in grey scale for assessing change in color specified in JIS L0804. In this connection, Class 1-2 is a class located midway between Class 1 and Class 2. According to the present invention, multicore fibers are converted into ultrafine fibers or fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers by acid treatment, and the degraded ultrafine fibers or fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers are subjected to a physical or mechanical operation. By this procedure, the individual component units in the fibers are partially separated from each other. In the resulting conjugated fibers, each component is partially converted into fine fibers. The term "whitening index" as used in the present invention indicates a hue-difference in this state.

Page 5, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

In the ~~invented~~ denim-like clothing, the ultrafine fibers or fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers preferably have a roughness index of equal to or more than 3 micrometers as determined using a measuring machine, KES-FB4. The term "roughness index" as used herein means a surface roughness variation determined using a measuring machine, KES-FB4 (produced by KATO TECH). The roughness index is preferably equal to or more than 3 micrometers, more preferably from 3 to 20 micrometers and typically preferably from 4 to 15 micrometers.

Page 5, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

The ~~invented~~ denim-like clothing typically preferably comprises one selected from woven or knitted fabrics of modified structures such as voile, mat USU (mat worsted), jacquard, corduroy, amunzen, cord and pile stitch. Alternatively, the woven or knitted fabric may comprise of a woven

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or knitted fabric having no roughness on its surface, such as taffeta, poplin, grey sheeting or SMOOTHNESS (interlock fabric). When this type of woven or knitted fabrics is sewn, the resulting woven or knitted fabric has projections and depressions (roughness) in stitches and return portions of the fabric, and the projections are partially whitened to yield a denim-like clothing.

Page 5 bridging Page 6, please amend the third paragraph as follows:

The ~~invented~~ denim-like clothing preferably comprises 100% polyester conjugated filament yarns. However, the ~~invented~~ denim-like clothing may be a union fabric or union knitted fabric further comprising synthetic fiber filaments of, for example, other polyester fibers or of polyamide fibers or natural fiber yarns within a range not deteriorating the advantages of the present invention. For example , the constitutional woven or knitted fabric can comprise a polyester conjugated yarn as a weft and a conjugated yarn of, for example, a polyester as a warp. The latter conjugated yarn has different contraction properties.

Page 6, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

In the ~~invented~~ denim-like clothing, the woven or knitted fabric comprises ultrafine fibers or fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers at least on its surface. When island-in-sea type fibers are used as the fibers capable of forming ultrafine fibers, a matrix component of the fibers has been degraded. In such degraded multicore fibers, the constitutional polyester itself has a decreased average molecular weight and becomes brittle. The degraded polyester conjugated fibers each have an appearance that does not significantly change from that of the original fibers.

Page 7, please amend the third paragraph as follows:

The ~~invented~~ denim-like clothing comprises such multicore fiber yarns. The yarns preferably

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have a fineness of from 80 to 650 dtex.

Page 8, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

A typical material for use in the production of the ~~invented~~ denim-like clothing is a multicore fiber containing a multicore component and a matrix component. In this fiber, the multicore component is a polyethylene terephthalate polymer, and the matrix component is, for example, a polyester containing from 1.5% to 15% by mole of a monomer containing a $-SO_3M$ group, where M is a hydrogen atom, an alkaline metal or an alkaline-earth metal, in which the matrix component has been treated with an acid. Alternatively, the multicore fibers for use in the production are preferably multicore fibers each comprising different components, which different components act as matrix components with respect to each other, can be separated and are a polyamide and a polyester.

Page 9 bridging Page 10, please amend the fifth paragraph as follows:

The ~~invented~~ denim-like clothing and the production method thereof will be illustrated in detail below. The ~~invented~~ denim-like clothing can be produced, for example, by subjecting a multicore fiber fabric comprising a SO_3M-group-containing polyester as a matrix component to treatment with an acidic solution with pH of from 1.4 to 4 at temperatures of from 100°C to 140°C. This procedure can be performed prior to or subsequent to sewing. The pH of the treatment solution is more preferably from 2 to 3. If the pH is excessively high or if the treatment temperature is excessively low, the matrix component cannot be significantly degraded.

Page 12, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

The ~~invented~~ denim-like clothing can be successfully exhibit worn-out feeling even though

it comprises synthetic fibers. Accordingly, the denim-like clothing is promising in new applications in the field of sewn fabrics like a natural fiber denim, such as trousers (jeans).